

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In 1997, the County of Orange developed and successfully implemented one of the most innovative long-range financial planning models in the municipal industry. The Strategic Financial Plan is the culmination of an intensive operational and financial planning process involving the Board of Supervisors, County department heads, managers, staff and the public. The process identifies financial priorities, forecasts revenues and expenses, and develops a balanced five-year financial outlook. The Strategic Financial Plan is an integral part of the County's corporate management system, which was implemented to assure an accountable, results oriented County government.

A function of the Strategic Financial Plan is to identify new manor initiatives (strategic priorities) that will impact the County over the next several years. The 2002 Strategic Financial Plan is the fifth plan to be prepared and recognizes five critical strategic priorities:

- **Public Safety: 800 Megahertz Additional Sites** – required to link communications between the County Sheriff's Department, city police departments, fire departments, and other emergency and public service agencies.
- **Public Safety: Jail Fire Sprinkler System** – public safety requires adequate facilities for jails and the funds to operate these facilities.
- **Community Services: Proposition 36 Program Requirements** – required to implement a new law approved by voters which focuses on drug and alcohol rehabilitation instead of punishment and to help offenders become successful and productive members of society.
- **Public Health: Soil and Groundwater Contamination Prosecution** – required to pursue litigation which will protect the County's ground water by seeking oil companies' compliance with environmental laws and regulations.
- **Environmental: Water Quality** – required for coordination of efforts to detect and eliminate sources of pollution to ensure clean ocean water for recreational activities of residents and visitors to Orange County.

The adoption of the Strategic Financial Plan demonstrates the Board of Supervisors' commitment to sound financial management principles and illustrates the Board's willingness to make tough decisions to ensure the County's financial success. This is the kind of planning and quality management that taxpayers should expect from County government.